

The Sun

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A Question of Method.

Upon the eminent Republican statesman soon to meet under the high patronage of the Hon. ROBERT C. MORRIS, president of the Republican Club of this city, to select one from the innumerable paths which lead to victory at the fall election a solemn duty devolves. One momentous decision must be made by them, one overshadowing interference must be answered by them, before any campaign can begin.

The question is so obvious it hardly requires mention. We repeat it simply for the sake of the record. Can the Republican party in this State insure victory best by the nomination of a Hughes candidate upon an anti-Hughes platform, or by naming an anti-Hughes candidate on a platform which in honor syllables declares for all the Hughes policies?

We are aware that certain disturbing factions are insistent that the situation be further complicated by a declaration either for a war upon bosses under the leadership of the Hon. THEODORE ROOSEVELT or an attack upon the evil of bossism as represented by the Hon. THEODORE ROOSEVELT. Although this question is plainly subsidiary it would perhaps be as well to have it answered at this time also.

In some quarters we have noticed with real surprise an inclination to magnify the extent of the differences of opinion among local Republicans. There are, indeed, those who would proclaim these differences matters of principle, and therefore irreconcilable. This is a mistake. The only serious difference is one of method, and this can be composed without difficulty.

General Dick at the Front.

The appearance of Major-General CHARLES DICK on the tented field at Columbus is the sensation of the day in Ohio, for Mr. DICK is a candidate for a second term as United States Senator. The situation is considered a delicate one for General DICK, but he was not drafted by Governor HARMON—the General volunteered for the firing line. "General WEYBRIGHT, the Adjutant-General," explains the Democratic Governor of Ohio, "came to me the other day and told me that Senator DICK had volunteered for active duty in Columbus. 'The dickens he has!' I cried. 'I was astonished, for he has the usual dynamite, politically, in strikes.' 'Yes,' said WEYBRIGHT, 'he has volunteered. 'Let him come on, then, and take charge of the Guard.'"

Major-General DICK came on, with a brilliant staff eclipsing the goldenrod in their blaze of braid, their arms burnished to blind the sun and bestirring airily their curving chargers. It was a clanking of sabre sheaths and ringing of scoured boot heels was never heard before along the Scioto River. It was war in full panoply with bristling front Major-General DICK, riding nonchalantly at the front with a perfect seat, was the exposure of envious civilian eyes. The General is a fine figure in any circumstances. He was born to command—a convention or an encampment. He is a theoretical as well as a practical soldier, an organizer and a strategist. He knows all the great campaigns by blue prints. In the following pen picture written by an admirer we can see the General directing operations at Columbus with his sword arm extended:

"Little as an Indian and as slim and upright with the same long, smooth, earthy, charcoal Dick is a unicorn man in personal appearance. Hair fine, but also an Indian's, is swept back from a round, high brow. The mouth is like HARRY CLAY's. Blue eyes, a long face without beard or mustache, a straight, slender nose and a square and angular chin, together with his gestures and mobility of features, give to DICK a distinctly dramatic aspect."

At the impressive age of three the youthful DICK remembered the Northern troops as they left for the front in the civil war, and he has said, "I can see them now as they came straggling back, some on crutches and some with empty sleeves." In 1898 the General, then Lieutenant-Colonel of the Eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, did not have enough political influence to sail with General SHAFTER to humble the whiskered Spaniard, but DICK got away from Tampa with the second section, and if the "President's Own," as the Eighth Ohio was called, arrived too late to figure heroically in the battle bulletin it was no fault of the militant Lieutenant-Colonel. It did its duty in the trenches, and if it did not bleed it had the fever. Colonel DICK it was who, the bugles stilled and the fighting over, carried despatches from General SHAFTER to the Government at Wash-

ington describing the ravages of disease in the ranks of the army.

We note that Governor HARMON is disposed to be facetious at the expense of General DICK's staff at Columbus, because it glitters so. DICK is gold, however. A soldier's valor he has always had, but it is his superb moral courage in volunteering for strike duty that evokes our admiration. We know that the Hon. JENSON HARMON has moral courage, too; but General DICK has not been willing to let the Governor be exposed singly to the political risks of the situation. Both the danger and the glory the gallant DICK is ready to share.

Mr. Parsons's Progress.

We have received this letter: "To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—There are two distinct elements in THE SUN's statement relative to the pluralities of my colleague Representative PARSONS. In 1906 the opposition to him was divided between the candidate of Tammany and the Independence League. In 1908, as in 1904, there was but one opposition candidate; there was also an independent candidate, who received some 400 votes.

"A plurality split two greater in 1908 than in 1904 does not indicate a loss of popular confidence, but rather the reverse. WILLIAM S. BENNETT, Middletown, August 1."

Mr. BENNETT's statement of the "two omitted elements" is accurate. What their relevance to the discussion may be is to us, at least, less apparent. The remarkable growth in popular support of the Hon. HENRY PARSONS in the Thirteenth Congress district is best shown by the figures of the vote received by him on the three occasions when he invited an expression of the confidence of this constituency.

In 1904 the Hon. HENRY PARSONS received 18,700 votes; in 1906, 16,831; in 1908, 15,108. In four years, therefore, his vote has declined by 3,592. In the same period, the vote of his colleague the Hon. J. VAN VECHTEN OLICOTT had declined by just three. Coincidentally, while Mr. PARSONS's plurality has increased by sixty-two, as Mr. BENNETT points out with such evident approval, that of Mr. OLICOTT has grown by 2,765.

Despite Mr. BENNETT's interesting logical exercise, we are bound to conclude that a very slight increase in the normal rate of the growth of popular confidence in the Hon. HENRY PARSONS would automatically retire him to private life, which has so long called him in ways unmistakable.

Our Duty in Regard to Liberia.

There rests upon the United States some measure of moral responsibility for the feeble and apparently incapable little republic of Liberia. The American Journal of International Law makes the matter a subject of special attention in its July number. It is there treated from a sentimental rather than from a practical point of view. It is assumed that the republic is worth saving and that its salvation is a moral obligation of the United States. The admission is made, however, that "political dependence, always vague, ceased many years ago." Under such circumstances the moral obligation of the United States is much less clear and much less impressive than it might be.

The article in the Journal was written by Mr. FALKNER, the chairman of the commission sent to Liberia last year. "To most persons in the United States," he says, "the name of Liberia represents, if it means anything at all, the somewhat inglorious outcome of the dream of a few high minded but impractical men that they could solve the great question of slavery in the United States by transporting its negro population back to the shores of Africa." Out of this dream came the organization of the American Colonization Society, founded in Princeton in 1811 through the efforts of the Rev. ROBERT FINLEY. A number of the prominent men of the time were associated with the society and actively engaged in advancing its purposes. The Government became involved through the passage, on March 3, 1819, of an act relative to the slave trade. The act provided for the use of armed vessels of the United States in the suppression of the slave trade and for the return to Africa of slaves released by those vessels. Great Britain had already established an asylum in Sierra Leone for those rescued by its vessels, and "the projected colony of the American Colonization Society offered a happy solution for the difficulty" that presented itself in connection with the return of those negroes released by American vessels. A supplementary arrangement was made for the repatriation of blacks who had been freed in this country and desired to return to their native land. In this way the Government became an active partner in the scheme of the society.

For nearly thirty years the institution occupied an indefinite position. In September, 1847, Secretary of State CALHOUN wrote to Mr. FOX, then the British Minister, that Liberia "was not established under the authority of our Government, nor has it been recognized as subject to our laws and jurisdiction." If Liberia was, as Mr. FALKNER holds, a colony of the United States, a mother country appears to have been reluctant to recognize its offspring and to assume responsibility for it. In 1854 Secretary FREELINGHOVEN wrote to the French Minister in Washington that Liberia, "although at no time a colony of this Government, began its career among the family of independent States as an offshoot of this country, and as such is entitled to the sympathy and when practicable to the protection and encouragement of the United States." Although there existed what Secretary EVARTS once called "peculiar relations," Liberia has at no time been recognized or regarded as a colony of the United States. In 1847 the people of the settlement held a convention and adopted a Constitution creating the republic of Liberia as an independent and self-governing nation. The new government was soon afterward recognized by Great Britain and other nations, but it was not until 1862 that diplomatic relations were established between Washington and Monrovia.

Throughout its entire experience the feeble little commonwealth has clung to the coat tails of the United States,

and this country has on various occasions and in both general and specific terms recognized its moral obligation by opposing threatened encroachment and interference. The affairs of Liberia are now in a critical and perhaps entirely hopeless condition. Sentiment urges, almost to the point of compulsion, some helpful action on the part of the United States for the salvation of the disordered republic. Such help the United States is well disposed to render, but there is another side to the matter. Is Liberia after all worth saving, and is its salvation by this country possible without violation of long established and clearly defined international policies? Liberia is not, like Cuba and Santo Domingo, "at our door." It is not in the territory covered by the Monroe Doctrine. The recommendations of the commission sent out in 1909 are, briefly, as given by Mr. FALKNER, as follows: That the United States extend its aid to Liberia in the prompt settlement of pending boundary disputes; that the United States enable Liberia to refund its debt by assuming as a guarantee for the payment of obligations under such arrangement the control and collection of the Liberian customs; that the United States lend its assistance to the Liberian Government in the reform of its internal finances; that the United States should lend its aid to Liberia in organizing and drilling an adequate constabulary or frontier police force; that the United States should establish and maintain a research station in Liberia; and that the United States reopen the question of establishing a naval coaling station in Liberia.

All this may be, as Mr. FALKNER terms it, "a true embodiment of that peculiar interest in Liberia's welfare which has received such cogent expressions in our State papers," but it outlines a policy and a proceeding little likely to improve our standing in the eyes of other nations somewhat more important than our African "ward." Nor does it seem that an official refusal to adopt all or any of these recommendations would be either an avoidance of a national duty or a shrinking from a national obligation. The benefit to Liberia from the establishment of an American political and financial guardianship would be great, but the welfare of that country of Mandingo, Gora and Kru negroes with a small admixture of the descendants of repatriated American slaves is not necessarily the leading question or the last word in the matter.

Though the exhibition is not extraordinarily rich in pottery, the big turquoise blue vase from Sultana had with its relief of a lion and palmettes is enough to have the eyes of the visitor. Masterpieces in forged later Persian art. Coming to Moslem times we find the gorgeous Imperial mantle given by Henry II. the Saint to Bamberg Cathedral. The work is Sclavo-Gothic and the collection of and of the original, though a good deal later are some of the remaining vestments lent by St. Mary's, Danzig. The German churches' wealth in Oriental masterpieces may well startle the visitor this array is a reminder of the fact that the collection of the collected beautiful things voraciously. 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